

10-2000

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(2000) "Book Reviews," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 38: Iss. 2, Article 12.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol38/iss2/12>

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BOOK REVIEWS

Tales of the Sabine Borderlands: Early Louisiana and Texas Fiction, Théodore Pavie. Edited with an introduction and notes by Betje Black Klier (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1998. Contents. Illus. Acknowledgments. "The Myth of the Sabine." Index. P.110. \$25.95. Hardcover.

Théodore Pavie was eighteen years old and a full-blown, wide-eyed Romantic in 1829 when he sailed from France to Louisiana to visit his uncle on a plantation near Natchitoches. While there, Pavie was adventurous enough to explore the wilderness road between Natchitoches and Nacogdoches, and he was completely entranced by the people of the frontier wilderness on both sides of the Sabine River. He absorbed the whole Borderland panorama, ran the experience through the filter of The Romantic Age, and produced a semi-fictional travel book and several short stories. The short stories, these *Tales of the Sabine Borderlands*, might well be the first fiction generated out of the Pineywoods of East Texas and northwest Louisiana.

Tales of the Sabine Borderlands consists of four short stories that Pavie wrote in the Borderlands setting and with the Borderlands characters whom he encountered. *Le Nègre* is about the brutal mistreatment of an African tribal chieftain who has become a slave in Louisiana. *Le Lazo* ("Lasso") is a love story set in Mexican Nacogdoches that pits a Mexican cavalryman against his colonel in the love of a pure Spanish maiden. The lasso is the weapon which gives the final victory to the cavalryman. *Le Peau d'ours* ("The Bear Skin") tells about the conflict on the Borderlands between Native Americans and frontier Europeans, in this case French Canadians. *Le Cachupin* (a Spanish-born settler) is about a Spanish-born couple who are forced by the new Mexican government of Texas to flee to the Louisiana Borderlands. They are taken in by an English planter who alters the course of their lives.

The *Tales* are not great literature, by any means. The stories are thin and lacking in suspense. The plots are contrived and hinge on coincidence and manipulation. The characters are mostly flat, real good or real bad. And Pavie's writing style is romantically and melodramatically effusive.

But Théodore Pavie saw the Texas-Louisiana Borderlands in 1830 when it was still being contested by international powers, on one hand, and rival settlers, on the other. And he wrote about it. He wrote about the frontier life he encountered on his uncle's plantation. He described scenes in Natchitoches and Nacogdoches and the dangers of the lawless Neutral Ground. And he caught the feeling of the deep woods and river bottoms of the Sabine and the Red rivers before settlers spotted them with cabins and clearings. Although he wrote about the Borderland as he saw it through an eighteen-year-old's romantic and sometimes naive imagination, he was one of the few who put his observations in vivid description so that we can see it in our minds' eyes 170 years later.

As a Frenchman, Pavie was conscious of the French Canadians in north Louisiana, and he made me conscious of them also, which I had not been before. Pavie met and knew these Frenchmen who had boated the waterways of French Louisiana from the St. Lawrence, through the Great Lakes, and down the Ohio and Mississippi to the Borderlands. I had never thought of those northern trappers and woodsmen as being a part of the population of north Louisiana. Pavie painted a vivid picture of them in *Le Peau d'ours*, as outer-fringe frontiersmen looking for peace and solitude in the vanishing wilderness.

Pavie saw and described the Indians of the Borderlands. He described the warlike Coushattas before they were decimated and forced to join the Alabamas to survive twenty years later. He described the fear that the Comanches of central and western Texas instilled in settlers as far from Comanche grounds as Natchitoches. He described in depressing details the plight of most of the surviving Indians—drunk and despised, in poverty, hanging about frontier villages—because their tribes and homes were lost. The Borderlands and East Texas became the cultural sink for Indians from as far away as Delaware. All of those Indians had been rolled under and pushed ahead of the advancing Anglo colonists by America's belief in its Manifest Destiny. Pavie describes these defeated, outcast Indians well, particularly in *Le Lazo* and *La Peau d'ours*.

Pavie saw slaves who were only a generation away from Africa, or who were straight from that Dark Continent. As he did with the Indians, he was sometimes derisive of their black savagery, and he sometimes elevated them into icons of the Noble Savage so revered by early nineteenth-century Romantics. His persecuted tribal chief in *Le Nègre* responds to the cruelty of the plantation overseer in the elevated language of a European Romantic hero.

Pavie spent eight days in February in Nacogdoches, visiting with John Durst part of that time. He gives us a rare description of that frontier outpost at that time. In the Mexican reaction to the Fredonia Rebellion of December 1826, Mexico had sent Colonel Piedras and companies of cavalry and infantry to Nacogdoches to protect the frontier from further intrusions. Pavie describes their impoverished military lives on the Plaza Principal of that town, a Plaza Principal that drops off into the deep woods of the Banita Creek bottoms.

Whatever Théodore Pavie did not do literally, he did historically. He has drawn social pictures for us. He has told us how they dressed and what they looked like and how they acted. He has described social relationships among a great mulligan stew of frontier types.

Historians will be grateful to Betje Black Klier's translations and editing of Théodore Pavie's short stories of the Texas-Louisiana Borderlands. Ms. Klier was assisted in the translations by Philip Stewart, Anne C. Marsh, and

Alexandra K. Wettlaufer. This collection of esoterica will add significantly to our knowledge and understanding of American frontier life.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University

Wilderness Manhunt: The Spanish Search for La Salle, Robert S. Weddle (Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Bldg, Lewis St., 4356 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1999. Reprint 1973. Contents. Biblio. Index. Illus. Notes. P.291. \$16.95. Paperback.

The original publication of Robert S. Weddle's *Wilderness Manhunt* in 1973 marked the appearance of a volume that has since become a classic of Texas historical literature. Weddle provided in it a detailed examination of the six land expeditions and the five sea explorations launched by the Spanish between 1685 and 1689 in an attempt to locate the La Salle colony on the western coast of the Gulf of Mexico. This study, based on extensive documentary sources, noted how the Spanish search for La Salle immeasurably added to Spain's geographic knowledge of the Gulf coast from Tampa Bay westward, around the whole of the *Seno Mexicans*, as they called that body of water, to the Rio Grande.

Weddle's study also highlighted the manner by which the first Spanish attempts to found missions in East Texas and the establishment of Pensacola, in Florida, both resulted from Spain's efforts to hold the region in the wake of La Salle. This volume, in its time, was also a harbinger of other important studies that have since examined the abortive French expedition of 1684-1687 and Spain's reaction to it. Weddle himself has subsequently authored a three-volume analysis of European rivalry in the Gulf region during the colonial era while several other scholars have edited travel narratives and journals from the La Salle expedition. Significantly, widely publicized archeological excavations in recent years have examined the wreckage of a La Salle ship and the site of his colony. Given all of these developments fostering a renewed scholarly and popular interest in the La Salle expedition, the reissue of *Wilderness Manhunt* with a new introduction by the author once again makes it conveniently available to the reading public. It remains essential reading for anyone interested in the Spanish colonial history of Texas and the Borderlands.

Light Townsend Cummins
Austin College

Empire of Sand: The Seri Indians and the Struggle for Spanish Sonora, 1645-1803, Thomas E. Sheridan (University of Arizona Press, 1230 N Park Ave, Ste 102, Tucson, AZ 85719) 1999. Contents. Maps. Illus. Glossary. Biblio. Index. P. 495. \$65.00. Hardcover.

The Seri (Comcáac) Indians have been known largely through W. J. McGee's expeditions in 1894 and 1895 to their rugged and mysterious desert homeland on the upper east shore of the Gulf of California. But photos of the pistol-packing ethnographer in "Seriland" and his assumptive, racist description of Seri hunter-gatherer culture belie a long history of struggle over Sonora and the Seri role in resisting Spanish control of far northwest Mexico. This epic of colonial contention is now brought forth in *Empire of Sand*.

The work is organized in five sections corresponding to distinct eras in Seri-Spanish relations. Tentative first contacts occurred between 1645 and 1700. Between 1725 and 1740 Jesuit missions attracted some Seris but also stimulated a raid and retaliation cycle that put the Jesuits out of business. During 1748-1750 a military push and deportation program was inflicted on the Seris, followed by a sustained, bloody fight for Sonora, well documented, from 1751 to 1771. After this conquest *manqué*, in which both sides were worn down by attrition, only the Indians more so, the Seri region became a backwater and records are correspondingly scarce and fragmentary.

For each era the richest diaries and reports not otherwise available are presented. Each document is given in an elegant English translation, followed by the Spanish original, an unusual presentation that minimizes questions of accuracy and enables comparison for those so interested. As Sheridan notes, the Spanish preoccupation with military matters led to little documentation of Seri lifeways, but there are valuable details on subjects such as band names and locations, and certainly many insights into the daily and yearly tribulations of the padres and soldiers. Superbly incisive introductions and notes enhance the original documents and unify them. *Empire of Sand* illuminates an obscure chapter in frontier history and thus achieves instant importance.

Daniel J. Gelo
University of Texas at San Antonio

Austin's Old Three Hundred: The First Anglo Colony in Texas by the Descendants of Austin's Old Three Hundred (Eakin Press, P. O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1999. Contents. Biog. Index. Map. Tables. P. 178. \$21.95. Hardcover.

1830 Citizens of Texas: A Genealogy of Anglo-American and Mexican Citizens Taken from Census and Other Records, Gifford E. White (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709- 0159) 1999. Appendix. Biblio. Index. \$21.95. Paperback. Tables. Illus. P. 282

Eakin Press has performed a great service for the preservation of early Texas records and making them available to researchers. Descendants of Austin's Old Three Hundred compiled information on their individual ancestors and collected as many photographs as possible. This volume was originally published in limited numbers, for members only. Such valuable records of early Texans needed to be published and made available to the public.

This work does not have sketches of every member of the Old Three Hundred, but each sketch contains valuable information about early Texas. Members of this society contributed information on their personal ancestor, and it is hoped that they will publish another volume with additional information in the future.

Gifford White received a special award from the Texas State Historical Association and from the Sons of the Republic of Texas for his compilation of the 1830 citizens of Texas. White worked countless hours in the General Land Office examining land grants for early immigrants. He also examined the 1867 Voter Registration for Texas in which individuals told how long they had resided in Texas and how long they had resided in a county. Austin's Colony Register was also included. White has compiled a list of approximately 6,500 people living in the area that became the Republic of Texas. This is a valuable work since the first Federal Census for Texas was not taken until 1850.

Carolyn Reeves Ericson
Nacogdoches

Blood of Noble Men-The Alamo: Siege & Battle, An Illustrated Chronology, Alan C. Huffines (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, Texas 78709-0159) 1999. Contents. Endnotes. Biblio. Index. Illus. P. 221. \$27.95. Hardcover.

In recent years, the Battle of the Alamo, an always popular subject for students of Texas history, has attracted a vast number of new publications. Of these, only a few, including Stephen Hardin's *Texian Iliad*, George Nelson's

The Alamo: An Illustrated History, and William C. Davis' *Three Roads to the Alamo*, can be considered worthy additions to understanding the people and events of the famous siege and battle. Now native Texan and professional Army officer Alan C. Huffines has added his own work, *Blood of Noble Men*, to the growing pile. The resulting book belongs with the above company of authors and worthy additions.

Using every known primary and participant account of the siege and the battle, Huffines lets the participants tell the story of the thirteen-day Alamo saga in a flowing chronology. Mexican, *Tejano*, and Texian participants are all equals here and Huffines limits his comments to a nicely written prologue and occasional footnotes to add clarity to some of the technical aspects of the military operations. Some might be disappointed that Huffines does not attempt to evaluate the validity of the participant accounts, such as Madam Candelaria or Jose Enrique de la Pena, or of controversial historical moments such as Travis drawing a line or the death of Davy Crockett. By not increasing the book's size with footnotes that would probably overpower the accounts themselves, Huffines does manage to avoid the historical and emotional diatribes that have so plagued recent Alamo works.

The historical accounts themselves are complimented by forty magnificent original drawings by artist Gary Zaboly. These pen and ink illustrations are not the typical Alamo fair: nearly half of them look at the operation from the Mexican side of the siege lines. The birdie views of the siege and San Antonio are a welcome addition to help understand the larger picture of the event. Zaboly's work here is first class in terms of artistic endeavor and historical accuracy. The only complaint is that the printer needed to lighten the tone on the working plates so the illustrations would be lighter.

The separation of myth and popular culture regarding the Alamo is one of the great stumbling blocks in understanding the event. The foreword by Texas historian Stephen Hardin does an excellent job in establishing the distinction between the two and keeps with Huffines' over-all theme of being clear and brief. As always, Hardin used his now famous folksy prose without being too pompous to give the work a sound historical springboard.

Eakin Press should not only be happy with *Blood of Noble Men*, a book that accomplishes what it set out to do, but should be proud of it as well. It is a magnificently produced volume that utilizes three very talented people. Every Alamo work has its problem areas, but Huffines has managed to fill an important gap and provide a valuable reference book to the Alamo story.

Kevin R. Young
Landmark Inn State Historical Park

A Texas Cavalry Officer's Civil War: The Diary and Letters of James C. Bates, Richard Lowe, editor (Louisiana State University Press, P.O. Box 25053, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5053) 1999. Contents. Appendices. Biblio. Illus. Maps. Index. P. 366. \$34.95. Hardcover.

This impressive volume is one of the better recent personal accounts of a Confederate officer during the Civil War. An intelligent and educated man of twenty-four, James Bates left Lamar County, a divided area with strong Union sentiment, to become a captain in Sul Ross's Ninth Cavalry. Part of the time his companion in this service was his friend and fellow resident of Lamar, the acerbic maverick E.L. Dohoney, a sergeant who earlier openly opposed secession and whose politics remained rather radical in the latter nineteenth century. Dohoney is no stranger to historians familiar with that time and place.

On the other hand, Bates believed in the Confederacy and its cause. As was the case with most Confederate soldiers, he was not a slaveholder or even a man of much property, but his participation in the war reflected his view that the South was distressed and systematically depressed by Northern political, industrial, and commercial leadership. In his opinion, there was no alternative save resistance to the tyranny. Repeatedly and cogently, he expressed his conviction that the South not only was justified in the conflict but also would emerge victorious. This steadfast faith sustained him to the end, and his devotion to the lost cause is all the more remarkable when one considers his severe wounds and debilitating illness brought on by the war.

The book is enhanced by an excellent preface and introduction in which the temper of the times, as well as Bates' sentiments, are depicted clearly. The letters are especially revealing and directed primarily to three women, his mother, sister, and future wife, all of whom appear to be intelligent and understanding. In sum, this excellent collection is well edited and well presented and a credit to Professor Lowe, who has produced a work that a wide variety of readers should find altogether sympathetic and interesting.

James W. Pohl
Southwest Texas State University

Fort Lancaster, Lawrence John Francell (Texas State Historical Association, 2.306 Sid Richardson Hall, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712) 1999. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Illus. P. 70 \$ 7.95. Paperback.

In the latest addition to the Fred Cotton Popular History Series, now numbering thirteen titles, Larry Francell has done a superb job of providing the reader with an entertaining sketch of this remote frontier outpost, the ruins of which are located near Sheffield, Texas. Francell's clear, honest, and well-

told narrative stands as the best overview on Fort Lancaster and will serve for years as an excellent visitor's guide to the fort.

According to the author, the story of Fort Lancaster "was not one of great men and great events." Rather, it was "the story of the commonplace life of ordinary soldiers on the isolated frontier of the desert Southwest" whose mission was to escort and patrol the lower road between San Antonio and El Paso.

The work consists of four chapters which detail the command structure and resources of the U.S. Army on the frontier prior to the Civil War, provide the history of the upper and lower roads between San Antonio and El Paso, document the Camp Lancaster experience (1855-56), and chronicle the life and times of Fort Lancaster (1856-61).

While brief by design, the author's overview of the Army is required reading for anyone who enjoys military history. The author makes the point that illness, disease, desertion, and discipline problems were far more commonplace than any encounter with hostile Apaches.

One of the most interesting elements within the book is the experiment at prefabrication of Army structures. Lt. Parmenas Taylor Turnley designed and developed buildings which could be prefabricated and delivered by wagons to the fort. Several of the original structures at Fort Lancaster were Turnley Portable Buildings.

Aside from its value as an interpretive tool for understanding the Fort Lancaster experience, this work will be appreciated because it is readable and can be enjoyed by anyone who loves Texas history.

John W. Crain
The Summerlee Foundation

Sailing Ship Elissa, Patricia Bellis Bixel (Texas A&M University Press, John C. Lindsey Bldg, 4354 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1998. Contents. Illus. Appendix. Index. Bibliographic Essay. P. 93. \$22.95. Hardcover.

Wooden Ships From Texas: A World War I Saga, Richard W. Bricker (Texas A&M University Press, John C. Lindsey Bldg, 4354 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1998. Contents. Illus. Tables. Notes. Biblio. Index P. 216. \$29.95. Hardcover.

These two books from A&M Press are filled with a love of the sea and the ships that sail it. Bixel's book on the sailing ship *Elissa* traces the history of one ship from its construction in 1877 by the highly successful Scottish ship building firm of Alexander Hall & Co., through the years and the ship's many

uses (including smuggling) to its near demolition in the 1960s, concluding in its restoration by the Galveston Historical Society. The story is a fascinating one filled with turning points at which the ship is almost, but not quite, lost for good. The result is the beautiful restoration, although no one had any real idea of what the cost might be at the time it began.

The author got particularly involved in the story of Henry Fowler Watt who ordered the three-masted barque and whose life ended in mental illness. The lives of Watt and his wife and children make this book very interesting reading. Also, if you can read this book and not get emotional about the sailing of the *Elissa* to New York for the July 4, 1986, celebration of the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, you have my sympathy. On the *Elissa's* first trip to New York in 1884, the statue was not yet erected.

This is basically a coffee table book, but it is a really interesting one that I recommend. I was a bit disconcerted at first by the black-and-white photos, but I came to the conclusion that they were the most appropriate. The only color photograph is a stunning one on the cover that depicts the ship's figurehead for which a young Texas A&M at Galveston student was the model.

The second book was written by Richard Bricker, whose love for ships is demonstrated in his illustrations and painstaking research for the text of *Wooden Ships From Texas: A World War I Saga*. I read this book twice. The first time I felt that it needed more editing because it seemed to include every detail found on all wooden sailing ships built in Texas shipyards in WWI. The second time I read it I got more involved in the stories of some of the fourteen wooden sailing ships built by Texas labor in Texas shipyards in remarkably little time during the war. I particularly recommend the stories of the ships, *The City of Orange* and *The City of Beaumont*. Among other things, you will learn about the danger of fire on wooden ships, complications from excessive drinking on these waterbound universes, and the lives of crew members under a captain (or Master) who has immense power over them. These ships were built at the end of the era of wooden ships. None of them survive, but their stories are often interesting, as is their connection to Texas. We do not often think of this state as a participant in the building of wooden ships. Bricker has changed that.

Jo Ann Stiles
Lamar University

Tracks to the Sea: Galveston and Western Railroad Development, 1866-1900, Earle B. Young (Texas A&M University Press, 4353 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1999. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 158. \$29.95. Hardcover.

For railroad enthusiasts and historians alike, *Tracks to the Sea* is not to be missed. Written as a complementary volume to his earlier work, *Galveston and the Great West*, Young focuses on the four railroads built after the Civil War that profoundly affected Galveston's development. The local citizenry recognized that the combination of a deep-water port and Western railroad development were crucial to Galveston becoming the "seaport for the Great West." But the experience of actually developing the railroad connections into the city was fraught with corporate, media, and government intrigue worthy of a modern movie drama. Young establishes the necessary context for fully exploring the competing corporate strategies of these railroads rather than concentrating on traditional construction and organizational chronologies. The result is an exceptional book that reads like a novel as the railroads jockey for position to exploit the geographic advantages of Galveston Harbor.

The star of the book is George Sealy, dynamic president of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway. As the principal railroad serving Galveston, its creation and development were central to the theme of developing Galveston's role as a major seaport. Sealy demonstrated keen leadership through the critical period of the 1880s as larger railroads sought to acquire the GC&SF while they were all collectively negotiating on the establishment of pooled freight rate agreements in an attempt to improve poor financial performance. Authorized by his board to sell the railroad, Sealy successfully matched wits and strategy with rail barons Jay Gould and Collis Huntington, eventually orchestrating the sale to William Strong and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe.

An additional map or two early in the book would have improved understanding of the influence of Texas' geography on the various corporate strategies, particularly with respect to construction plans. Of course, the principal characters of the book almost read like a map of Texas: Sealy, Rosenberg, Somerville, Ballinger, Moody, Killeen, Blum, Kopperl—after reading this book, passing through these railroad towns will never quite be the same.

Jim King
Southwest Railroad Historical Society,
Dallas

Whistle in the Piney Woods: Paul Bremond and the Houston, East and West Texas Railway, Robert S. Maxwell (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 1998. Republication. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Index. Illus. P. 128. \$24.95. Hardcover.

Until the late nineteenth century much of the East Texas piney woods remained relatively isolated from the outside world, its lumbermen, farmers, and small towns largely dependent upon water transportation and the horse for links to markets and other attractions in the world beyond. In 1875 that began to change as Paul Bremond, a one-time hatter from New York who had settled into the life of a successful merchant and entrepreneur in Houston, started to implement his dream of building a railroad through East Texas from Houston to Shreveport via a connection at Logansport, Louisiana, on the Sabine River.

"Bremond's Road," the Houston, East and West Texas Railway, was to be a narrow-gauge line (eventually converted to standard gauge) constructed almost entirely with Bremond's own funds and on his credit. Sadly, it was not completed by the time of his death in 1885, and it eventually went into receivership and was an economic burden on his heirs and successors. The road was completed to Shreveport in 1886, where it connected with another Bremond project, the Shreveport and Houston, which penetrated the pine forests of northwest Louisiana.

Nicknamed "The Rabbit" by locals, the HE&WTR contributed positively to the area it served while failing to reward the efforts of its builders and owners. "The Rabbit" did not turn the small towns along its route into ersatz Chicagos, but it did provide reliable service to the Gulf and international markets to the south and access to the northeast via Shreveport. It enabled the growing lumber industry of East Texas to ship its products to markets more economically, and it brought products from the outside world to the people of the piney woods. It also intersected with at least sixteen other railroads over its route, both main-line roads such as the Santa Fe, the Kansas City Southern, and the Katy, as well as short lines and logging trams that largely served local interests.

The late Robert S. Maxwell's book was originally published in 1963 and it has long been out of print. Over the years it has come to be regarded as a small classic and an essential part of the literature of East Texas history. The author not only tells the story of "Bremond's Road," but also of the other lines along its route. He uses printed sources, interviews, and even the old Tex Ritter song "Tenaha, Timpson, Bobo and Blair" to capture not only the history but also the spirit of "The Rabbit" and the piney woods it traversed as its locomotives huffed and puffed and its trains lurched up and down the line from Houston to Shreveport and back. The republication of this book is a service to students of East Texas history and a fitting tribute to its author.

James E. Fickle
The University of Memphis

The Bagbys of Brazil: the Life and Work of William Buck Bagby and Anne Luther Bagby, Daniel B. Lancaster (Eakin Press, P. O. Box 90159, Austin, Texas 78709-0159) 1999. Contents. B&W Photos. Notes. Index. P. 160. \$21.95. Hardcover.

Students of Baptist history will appreciate this latest edition in the Eakin Press Series on Texas Baptist Leaders. William Buck and Anne Luther Bagby are the stuff of which legends are made. For those growing up Baptist—and Baylor—the term “Bagbys of Brazil” was synonymous with the pioneering spirit of Christian missions.

The Bagbys created a legacy in Brazil. They arrived in 1881 and left in 1939. During those fifty-eight years they helped to organize 650 churches with over 50,000 members. While there were countless others who came to the field—and contributed to the work—it was the Bagbys who provided the leadership in Brazil and engendered support in the United States. In particular, they created the so-called “Texas Connection” that funneled both financial support and human resources to the Brazilian mission field.

The length limits the scope of the book. It is very difficult to fit the lives and accomplishments of two significant persons such as William Buck and Anne Luther Bagby into 121 pages of text. The result leaves the reader wanting to know more about Anne Luther Bagby and her influence, as well as more about the rift between the Bagbys and the Z.C. Taylors during the early days of the Brazilian mission.

This book provides valuable insights into the inner workings of Baptist missions and Baptist missionaries. The author does not hide nor gloss over the inevitable personality conflicts and differences of opinion that occurred. Well documented from both primary and secondary sources, the book updates earlier works on the Bagbys and the Brazilian mission. As the Foreword states, this is a book for a newer generation who “knew not the Bagbys.”

Gwin Morris
University of Arkansas for Medical Services

Knight Without Armor: Carlos Eduardo Castañeda, 1896-1958, Félix D. Almaráz, Jr. (Texas A & M University Press, 4354 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1999. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Illus. P. 430. \$39.95. Hardcover.

In this powerfully written biography, Félix D. Almaráz, Jr., professor of history at the University of Texas at San Antonio, wants to demonstrate how some people, in this case Carlos Eduardo Castañeda, serve society in intellectual capacities such as that of librarians, public lecturers, and historians. The book's scope also embraces related subjects, among them

Borderlands historiography, the Catholic Church's interest in preserving its history, and efforts by the federal government to regulate race relations during World War II.

Almaráz's prime focus is Castañeda's scholarly career. That professional odyssey encompassed productive service as Spanish professor at William & Mary in Virginia, archivist/librarian for the University of Texas' Latin American Collection, public school superintendent in Del Rio (1933-1935), and "historiographer" of *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas*. In 1947, Castañeda acquired a tenured position as professor of history at the University of Texas.

Almaráz leaves no depository untapped in giving us this fascinating portrayal. His three-decade quest to find every possible detail of Castañeda's life took him to some of the nation's most important archives. The search entailed reading private papers, newspaper files, and Castañeda's massive correspondence. It required oral interviews with the famed historian's colleagues, friends, and students.

One comes away from the opus amazed at Castañeda's extraordinary contributions; they match that of any other Texas historian of his generation. The man's publishing record is almost untouchable. The knowledge he possessed on early Texas and the Borderlands, as well as Latin American history and bibliography, astounded his contemporaries. His work in amassing and organizing the Latin American Collection for future generations remains a marvel. Castañeda collected awards, honors, and titles that will elude the rest of us entirely.

Knight Without Armor is a solidly researched biography written by a master craftsman. It is a model of scholarship in the rapidly developing *genre* of *Tejano* biography where Almaráz has now set the standard.

Arnoldo De León
Angelo State University

Wilderness Mission: Preliminary Studies of the Texas Catholic Historical Society II, Jesus F. de la Teja, editor (Texas Catholic Historical Society, 1625 Rutherford Lane, Bldg. D, Austin, TX 78754-5101) 1999. Contents. Biblio. P. 237. \$19.95 + \$1.50 s/h. Paperback.

Wilderness Mission is volume two of the old, out-of-print, and difficult to find *Preliminary Studies* series of the Texas Catholic Historical Society. Like the first volume, *Preparing the Way*, this one offers some valuable studies, despite the fact that the annotative remarks and state of scholarship are a bit dated. Editor Jesús F. de la Teja has corrected the situation somewhat by providing new notes along with the original sequence. This is particularly helpful concerning streams crossed by early expeditions where the

translator/annotator was uncertain of their modern names. More recent studies, such as William C. Foster's *Spanish Expeditions into Texas, 1689-1768*, have clarified such questions considerably.

Included here are translations of the diaries for three more expeditions, those of Domingo Terán de los Ríos (1691-92), Domingo Ramón (1716), and Peña's diary of Aguayo's major undertaking (1721-22). Although the first was pretty much a failure, Ramón's was significant. Presidios and missions were established both at San Antonio and in East Texas. Aguayo's expedition founded more, and he is generally credited with placing Texas firmly in the Spanish orbit. The diaries of these expeditions remain as key documents for any study of the colonial period, even if new translations have seen print since the 1930s.

Other pieces in *Wilderness Mission* are also useful. They include Peter Forrestal's article on Fray Antonio Margil de Jesús; Francis B. Steck's look at the expeditions on the margins of Texas between 1670-1675; Carlos E. Castañeda's "The Six Flags of Texas" and his treatment of the "Silent Years" in Texas history, the period between 1694-1716. Fortunately, a great deal of work has been done since to shed light on these years, but Castañeda defined the gap and offered some markers for the road ahead. His later monumental series of books, *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas* (7 vols.), also did much to close this historical gap and others during the eighteenth century.

Lastly, there is Paul J. Foik's article on early plans for colonization of Texas by German Catholics, plans which gained new urgency after 1821 as an independent Mexico struggled for a means to balance the Anglo Protestant takeover then in progress. It should be noted that Father Foik, as president of the TCHS and chairman of the Knights of Columbus Historical Commission, was largely responsible for initiating the *Preliminary Studies* series and other such works aimed at making Texans more appreciative of their heritage when Catholicism was the *only* religion of the land apart from little-known Indian ritual beliefs. Judging from these two volumes (with one more coming soon), his work was not in vain.

Jack Jackson
Austin, Texas

Czech-Americans in Transition, Clinton Machann (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1999. Contents. Maps. Notes. B&W Photos. P. 136. \$18.95. Hardcover.

In the summer of 1997, Czech-Americans and visiting Czech nationals met in Belton, Texas, for a two-day conference. It was a joint meeting, one that combined the annual conference of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences with a celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas, also known as SPJST. Clinton

Machann, professor of English at Texas A&M University and author of several Czech-American studies, assisted in the meeting's organization. With *Czech-Americans in Transition*, Machann attempts to ensure that the conference participants' call for greater cultural awareness will be heard beyond the walls of the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton and will not be forgotten.

Czech Americans in Transition is a collection of addresses and paper presentations from the meeting in 1997. Interprofessional as well as interdisciplinary in structure, conference panels featured academicians, genealogists, politicians, and business people—all of whom voiced their findings and their concerns. Machann's book boasts the same diversity of cast and approach, but one charge unites the disparate essays: Czech-Americans must redouble their efforts to preserve their cultural heritage and promulgate their cultural identity into the future.

Machann's work, therefore, is more a call to arms and a public relations tool than it is a history of the Czech peoples in the United States. It targets a select audience, appealing to Czech-Americans to become more active in cultural preservation and propagation. As such, its value as a scholarly resource is limited. Unfortunately for scholars throughout the United States and especially for those in Texas, where the Czech language ranks third in everyday use behind only English and Spanish, the Czech-American history surveys written in the 1930s remain in use, waiting to be supplanted by definitive, less-fawning, more critically-analytical works.

Kregg M. Fehr
Wayland Baptist University, Lubbock

Pauline Periwinkle and Progressive Reform in Dallas, Jacquelyn Masur McElhaney (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1998. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 201. \$29.95. Hardcover.

Women and the Creation of Urban Life: Dallas, Texas, 1843-1920, Elizabeth York Enstam (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1998. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 284. \$39.95. Hardcover.

"Cities, and not the frontier, emancipated American women" (p. 180). With this emphatic conclusion, Elizabeth York Enstam brings synthesis to the facts, supporting details, and inferences that make *Women and the Creation of Urban Life: Dallas, Texas, 1843-1920*, so readable. Doubly pleasurable was being able to follow that read with Jacquelyn Masur McElhaney's *Pauline Periwinkle and Progressive Reform in Dallas*.

These two books work extremely well together. Enstam paints a panoramic view of women's involvement in the city of Dallas from the time of Margaret Beeman Bryan in the mid-1800s through the winning of women's suffrage in 1920. She skillfully weaves together newspaper accounts, letters, women's club papers, and wide-range public documents to provide her readers with a sense of what it was like to be a female in Dallas in the early days.

Enstam describes the development of Dallas from a farm village to a forward-looking, energetic city—a process not always smooth but always exciting. Along the way she introduces (or sometimes re-introduces) us to some of the leading women of Dallas society—women who, according to Enstam, played pivotal roles in the development of the city they all loved.

One of these women was Isadore Calloway, a Michigan native who divorced her husband for non-support—she once said all he ever provided her during their marriage was one \$12 to \$15 dress—left behind a dysfunctional family, and moved to Dallas for a fresh start. McElhaney brings Isadore to life for us in *Pauline Periwinkle and Progressive Reform in Dallas* through the words of Pauline herself. Pauline Periwinkle was the *nom de plume* of Isadore Calloway, the first female editor of the women's page of the *Dallas Morning News*. In that position, she was a leading voice of reform for Dallas throughout the Progressive Era. McElhaney has sifted through mounds of editorial columns to bring us some of the best of Periwinkle's work—from campaigns for pure milk to calls for cleaner courtrooms to the need for public kindergartens.

Periwinkle combined style, substance, and wit in her writings, as evidenced in this quote from November 1897: "The progressive woman can always console herself with the knowledge that people have opposed everything new from time immemorial. The inventor of the umbrella was stigmatized for interrupting the designs of Providence, for when showers fell it was evident God intended man should get wet" (p. 63). McElhaney thus documents one woman's use of the pen to urge other women to take up the reforms necessary to make Dallas a truly modern city.

Both Enstam and McElhaney have added to our knowledge of the importance of women to the growth of a major American city. Their books should be read by those interested in women's history, urban studies, and the Progressive Era. Both have extensive bibliographies, and Enstam's notes are particularly illuminating. The only major deficiency is Enstam's inability to document fully the lives of minority women in Dallas' history—a perennial problem for researchers in most places, given the dearth of records on these women. Read both books for pleasure as well as an expansion of knowledge; both are exceedingly abundant.

Janet G. Brantley
Texarkana College

Old Friends: Great Texas Courthouses, Bill Morgan (Landmark Publishing, Inc., 4410 W. Vickery, Ste 101, Ft. Worth, TX 76107) 1999. Contents. Illus. P. 155. \$55.00. Hardcover.

The historic courthouses of Texas have gained a great deal of public attention in recent years. Governor George W. Bush made their preservation one of his campaign priorities in 1998, and in 1999 the Texas Legislature responded with initial funding of \$50 million for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, a project to be administered by the Texas Historical Commission. This unprecedented cooperative effort between the counties and the state is a first step in addressing widespread concerns that the unique character of the structures, as well as many of the structures themselves, could be lost. Perhaps the most significant warning came in 1993 when fire ravaged the ornate Hill County Courthouse in Hillsboro. Preservationists nationwide echoed the alarm, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation eventually named Texas courthouses to its list of Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites.

A longtime friend of the Texas courthouse is illustrator Bill Morgan. For years he has traveled the state making detailed artistic renderings of the more historic of the grand temples of justice that reflect the golden era of courthouse construction in the state. In *Old Friends*, Morgan's drawings bring new life to seventy-one of the most significant structures and provide the reader with a strong sense of their unique architectural and cultural value to our collective history. Included are historic courthouses from a number of East Texas counties, including Shelby, Trinity, Jefferson, Newton, Hopkins, Grimes, and Fort Bend. Each drawing is accompanied by a brief anecdotal history.

Bill Morgan has provided courthouse enthusiasts with a beautiful companion book that serves as a worthy commemoration for the state's "old friends." Its strength is in the sensitive interpretation of the drawings, but its message is even broader and more appealing: Preserving courthouses is in the best interest of all Texans.

Dan K. Utley
Pflugerville, Texas

Texas Houses Built by the Book: The Use of Published Designs 1850-1925, Margaret Culbertson (Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Bldg, Lewis St., 4354 TAMUS, College Station, TX 778434354) 1999. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio, Index. P. 129. \$39.95. Hardcover.

Here is the book, at last, that explains why, from bypassed metropolis to forgotten farm center, Texans seem to have had such consistently good architectural taste during the early years of the industrial age. For Texas this settlement and saturation period began in the 1850s, just before dominance of

the railroad, and lasted some seventy-five years to just after rail's withering confrontation with the automobile. Anyone with access to mail and a rail siding—a vast majority of Texans by 1925—could receive high quality plans or whole houses, delivered with detailed instruction for the local lumberyard or precut for the town carpenter to assemble.

Margaret Culbertson combines her years of research on early suburban homes with considerable archival resources, starting with her employer, University of Houston Libraries, to arrange primary sources into a tapestry of local histories revealed through material culture. She starts with stately brick Ashton Villa, finished in 1859 on Galveston's Broadway, then spotlights everyday gingerbread homes and bungalows on quiet streets in smaller, later communities such as Baird, Beeville, and Bonham. East Texas towns are well represented, demonstrating the widespread popularity of both "pattern book" and "ready-cut" houses from the 1880s through the 1920s surviving in Athens, Ladonia, and Tyler, among many others.

One particularly successful merchant of paper dreams, George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee, enjoys here a chapter of his own as the "Mail-Order Master" in Culbertson's analysis. For twenty years after his debut of *The Cottage Souvenir* in 1888, in which he featured inexpensive engraved plans for houses "ranging in price from \$900 to \$8,000 in wood, brick and stone" (p. 29), Barber inspired sophisticated shelter across the United States in the form of whimsical turrets, soaring roofs, and spacious porches on reiterations of his most popular models. For one example, the author astutely illustrates through both historic and recent photos how clients in the three widely separated Texas communities of Hutto, Orange, and Plainview ultimately built the identical Barber design between 1905 and 1910.

Also featured in a distinct chapter is the town of Waxahachie, renowned today for its cotton-culture and streetcar-era avenues of storybook, turn-of-the-century homes. Culbertson conservatively identifies seven local houses from known pattern-book sources in this railroad town, and she describes in vivid detail the people who built them and why. In one touching example, the author assembles a brief family history of Oscar E. and Ella Dunlap against the backdrop of their 1890 residence lifted from the pages of *Shoppell's Modern Houses*. At the height of Oscar's banking career, the Dunlaps commissioned local builders to construct Shoppell's No. 438, in which the family lived through fortune and misfortune for the next forty-three years.

Culbertson beautifully documents these highly visual, and fortunately much-preserved, products of an era identified by sharp contrasts between rapid intercity transportation and slow-paced local circulation. Designers, builders, and owners meant for these houses to be admired from the sidewalk, that lifeline between the front porches of early neighborhoods. Automobiles and paved streets by the 1930s changed this singular balance forever, along with society's pace, scale, and taste.

Jim Steely
Texas Historical Commission

Make Haste Slowly: Moderates, Conservatives, and School Desegregation in Houston, William Henry Kellar (Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsay Bldg., Lewis St, 4354 TAMUS, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 1999. Illus. Contents. Tables. Epilogue. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 226. \$38.95. Hardcover.

In *Make Haste Slowly* William Henry Kellar examines the convoluted and often Byzantine politics of the Houston Independent School District as it confronted court-ordered school desegregation in the 1950s and 1960s. Kellar clearly describes the power struggle within the political world of Houston's public education between "liberals," who generally supported school desegregation, and the "conservative" segregationists, determined to resist or at least delay compliance with federal court rulings. More interestingly, Kellar convincingly links the conservative faction that dominated the HISD school board with the "Minute Women" and other extremist remnants of Houston's red scare. While moderates and their allies managed to avoid violent confrontations with federal authority such as that in Little Rock in 1956, and deflected the extreme reactions of other Southern states, such as shutting down the schools, conservatives, including persons with strong ties to the Minute Women, used their control of the school board in the 1950s to delay significant school desegregation until the 1960s. Kellar further argues that the struggle over desegregation contributed to white flight in the 1970s and 1980s which left HISD a majority-minority district by the 1990s.

While Kellar's work is documented carefully and his arguments are logical and convincing, there are unexplored questions that remain to be answered. First, HISD is only one (albeit the largest) of the school districts in Houston. The full story of school desegregation will have to take into account developments in Spring Branch, North Forest, and other school districts that function in and around Houston. Second, and most interestingly, we need some explanation why extremists such as the Minute Women were so well entrenched in HISD politics, seemingly with the support of Houston's political and business establishment, and able to block or delay school desegregation, while in City Hall moderates generally held sway and cooperated with the business elite in the early 1960s to dismantle segregation in public accommodations. Had there been a major shift in Houston's racial consciousness between 1958 and 1962, or were the political forces acting on HISD separate and different from those at City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce?

These questions in no way detract from the value of Kellar's work. His thorough study of HISD records as well as the reports of the local press clearly detail the desegregation debate in HISD and, in the process, provides valuable insight into the struggle for civil rights in Texas' largest city. Hopefully this work will inspire additional work that will further clarify this complex and important period in Texas and U.S. history.

Cary D. Wintz
Texas Southern University

Features and Fillers: Texas Journalists on Texas Folklore, Jim Harris, editor (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 1999. Contents. Contributors. Index. B&W photos. P. 223. \$29.95. Hardcover.

As a former newspaperman who still subscribes to most of the major weekly newspapers of East Texas, I have become a fan of the legions of men and women who write about the history and folklore of their communities. So when *Features and Fillers* arrived on my desk, I asked myself: "Now, why didn't I think of doing something like this?"

Jim Harris has put together a delightful treasury of stories from Texas newspapers from deep East Texas to far West Texas. And while many of the stories are from well-known Texas writers—such as A.C. Greene, Kent Biffle, and Elmer Kelton—there are also notable contributions from working newspaper folks such as Sarah Greene of the *Gilmer Mirror*, Rosie Flores of the *Pecos Enterprise*, and Jerry Turner of the *Mexia Daily News*.

As Jim Harris corrected observed, newspaper readers are hungry for articles about their past and, thankfully, more newspapers in Texas are attempting to satisfy the hunger. A superb example is Arlan Hays' venerable *San Augustine Tribune*, which publishes folklore and history articles every week.

Hopefully, *Features and Fillers* will be only the first volume in what could become a series of delightful and entertaining books published by the Texas Folklore Society.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas

Billy Rose Presents . . . Casa Manana, Jan Jones (Texas Christian University Press, P.O. 298300, Fort Worth, TX 76129) 1999. Contents. Illus. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 194. \$39.95, Hardcover. Paper, \$19.95.

Jan Jones has thoroughly documented Fort Worth's 1936 Frontier Centennial in this lively history of the event that turned Cowtown into Tinsel Town. In the heart of the Great Depression, Amon G. Carter, publisher of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and a group of Fort Worth's leading citizens agreed to pay Broadway producer Billy Rose \$100,000 to put together a summer show. Fort Worth sidelined plans for a new city hall and a library and used \$725,727 in Public Works Administration funds to augment \$887,000 from city bonds and \$250,000 from federal centennial funds to construct centennial buildings.

Casa Manana dinner theatre was designed with thirty-two Spanish arches marking its 320 foot façade, the world's largest revolving stage which seemed

to float in water punctuated by twenty fountains, and the world's longest bar. Rose filled that revolving stage with stars: stripper Sally Rand, who traded her ostrich fans for a huge balloon; Paul Whiteman and his orchestra; Texas Sweetheart Faye Cotton wearing a \$5000 gold mesh dress; two hundred show girls; and opera star Everett Marshall, who crooned "The Night Is Young and You're So Beautiful," Fort Worth's anthem from opening night, July 18, 1936, until today.

A thousand magazine, radio, and newspaper writers and editors from across the United States came to Fort Worth to preview *Casa Manana*. Damon Runyon wrote that Casa was "probably the biggest and most original show ever seen in the United States." In addition to Casa, the Frontier Centennial boasted agricultural exhibits, sideshow nudes, a Wild West show, and Rose's musical circus production, *Jumbo*.

Fort Worth flaunted its show with the slogan "Fort Worth for Entertainment; Dallas for Education" and erected a 40 x 130 foot neon sign proclaiming "wild and whoopee 45 minutes west in Fort Worth" just outside the main entrance to the Dallas Centennial. A second edition of Casa was staged in 1937; then the party was over but Fort Worth was never the same.

Cissy Stewart Lale
Fort Worth

Sam Bass & Gang, Rick Miller (State House Press, P. O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 1999. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Illus. Index. P. 412. \$21.95. Paperback. \$34.95. Hardcover.

Sam Bass, an illiterate farm boy from Indiana, migrated to Texas as a teenager in search of adventure in the West. Unimpressive in physique and personality, for a year and a half he worked as a hired hand for Denton County Sheriff W. F. Egan. Egan eventually felt compelled to discharge Bass because of the low nature of his friends, and later the sheriff led a pursuit posse after his former hired hand.

In 1876 Bass and some of his shady friends contracted to drive a cattle herd north. After the sale they brazenly kept the money, then began robbing stagecoaches. A Nebraska train robbery produced a \$60,000 bonanza, but posses killed or captured most of the outlaws. The elusive Bass escaped to Texas and formed a new gang. Bass held up four trains in the Dallas area during the spring of 1878, triggering a massive manhunt.

For a couple of months there were running fights with posses, but somehow Bass and a few of his men remained at large. Once they captured eight posse members and genially treated them to beer. Bass also occasionally returned small sums of money to some of his victims, and a Robin Hood aura

began to grow. But one of the desperate fugitives became an informer to the Texas Rangers. When Bass and his men rode into Round Rock, lawmen were waiting. Bass was mortally wounded during a wild shoot-out. Resolutely refusing to divulge information about his comrades, Bass died on his twenty-seventh birthday.

There were enough dramatic qualities during the brief life of crime of Sam Bass to capture the public imagination. For decades the best book on Bass has been the biography by Wayne Gard published in 1936. But Rick Miller's *Sam Bass & Gang* notably expands the information available from any previous volume. The author of three previous books about frontier outlaws, Miller is an attorney and former policeman who has produced exhaustive research about Bass and his criminal associates. *Sam Bass & Gang*, with more than eighty pages of endnotes and numerous unpublished photos, provides the definitive account of this legendary Texas outlaw.

Bill O'Neal
Carthage, Texas

Oklahoma Renegades: Their Deeds and Misdeeds, Ken Butler (Pelican Publishing Company, P. O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 700554) 1997. Contents. Notes. Index. Illustrations. P. 236. \$10.95. Paperback.

This volume is an interesting and informative account of sundry Oklahoma outlaws and other nefarious characters. In twenty-seven relatively short chapters, Butler relates the saga of different individuals and/or various "gangs." Comments and coverage of Texas and Texans is only peripheral to this study, but some accounts of various *Renegades* touch on the Lone Star State. Sam Baker, for example, was an Alabamian who migrated to Cooke County, Texas, in 1884 and lived there with his family until 1890 before moving north and settling first in the Cherokee Nation and later in the Creek Nation. He recrossed the Red River on at least one occasion—recrossed long enough to rob a train. Caught by Texas authorities, Baker disappeared into a lockup. After being paroled, he returned to Indian Territory where he renewed the outlaw life and associated with such lawbreakers as Al and Frank Jennings, Richard "Little Dick" West, Charles "Dynamite Dick" Clifton, and members of the Doolin gang.

The James Hughes family, which eventually produced some rogues who committed devilry in Oklahoma, also had a Texas sojourn. Originally from Missouri, James Hughes moved his brood to North Texas in the 1870s and engaged in farming and stock raising. He was fairly prosperous, but that did not stop his youngest son, Benjamin F. "Ben" Hughes, from turning bad. In the mid-1880s, Ben crossed the Red River, went into the Choctaw Nation, and tried to steal a horse herd. Caught and arrested, he managed to break out of jail. Later he robbed a train in Texas, got away, but had to live "on the dodge." His parents felt shamed in their hometown and decided to move to the new Oklahoma Territory (created in 1890), to start life anew. Bert Casy and his gang, operating in the 1890s, also developed a Texas "connection." The

villains stole horses from Texas, drove them through Oklahoma Territory, and sold them in Kansas.

Butler also includes a few other accounts that bring Texas into the story, but, again, only in a tenuous way.

Oklahoma Renegades is well written; it is well documented and includes many references to contemporary newspapers in Texas, Kansas, and the Twin Territories (present Oklahoma). The index is useful and the volume contains an unusual appendix—a “Chronology of Homicides.” Students and scholars interested in outlawry in East Texas should perhaps examine this book, for they could quickly determine what short accounts, if any, were relevant to their interests.

James Smallwood
Oklahoma State University

Gamblers & Gangsters: Fort Worth's Jacksboro Highway in the 1940s & 1950s, Ann Arnold (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1998. Contents. Appendices. Notes. Biblio. Index. B&W Illus. P. 113. \$18.95. Paperback.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s Fort Worth's famous, or infamous, Jacksboro Highway was a well known three-mile strip of gambling and vice houses, dance halls, and base of operations for some of the state's most notorious criminals. Gambling was the economic base of the strip on the north side, and patrons had access to slot machines, card games, roulette, and “bookies.” Bootleggers also worked out of the strip since many nearby counties were “dry.” Adding spice to this mixture of gambling, prostitution, and illicit liquor was a steady number of murders usually committed by criminals upon other criminals over gambling debts, territorial rights, or for personal vengeance. Patrons or innocent customers who enjoyed the nightlife of Jacksboro Highway were seldom murdered. Corruption among local officials made it all possible, and even though the city's residents knew about the underground activities, they were not threatened or otherwise affected, and if anything Fort Worthians generally tolerated Jacksboro strip and included it among the city's folklore.

Arnold's *Gamblers & Gangsters* provide a detailed recollection of the activities on the strip known as a “Little Chicago.” She identifies the restaurants, clubs, dance halls, and tourist courts such as the Black Cat, Coconut Grove, Casino, Showboat, 3939 Club, and for the well-heeled the 2222 Club, all of which furnished a wide open and tough atmosphere of crime and corruption. Short biographical chapters describe the activities of the worst criminals, including Tincy Eggleston, George Kean, Sully Montgomery, and Gene Paul Nelson, who made the FBI's list of Ten Most Wanted. Nearly all of

them died in an exchange of gunfire or car bombs or served prison sentences. The end of the strip began in 1950 with the car bombing of petty racketeer Nelson Harris and his pregnant wife. So severe was the bombing, which occurred only a few blocks from an elementary school, that it outraged the public and press who demanded a crackdown. A series of grand jury indictments in 1951 exposed the corruption and put some criminals on trial. A new sheriff and district attorney made crime unattractive on the strip, and by the mid 1950s Jacksboro Highway had lost its criminals and their activities.

Written for popular readers, *Gamblers & Gangsters* is brief and entertaining. It identifies the hoodlums, their places of business, and the final downfall of both. Though a popular history, this book needs a more thorough explanation of the era. It needs analysis. In the literature of Fort Worth history, however, this study will be valuable for identifying and providing reference material on Fort Worth's notorious Jacksboro Highway.

D. Clayton Brown
Texas Christian University

Martha Mitchell of Possum Walk Road: Texas Quiltmaker, Melvin Rosser Mason (Texas Review Press, Huntsville, TX) 1999. Contents. Color Photos. Drawings. Notes. Bibliography. P. 80. Hardcover.

Martha Mitchell of Possum Walk Road: Texas Quiltmaker is Melvin Rosser Mason's story of Martha Mitchell and her art. In a four-year period between 1981 and the artist's death in 1985, the two collaborated on a variety of projects about her quilting. Martha Mitchell created more than one hundred handmade quilts, using traditional designs in an original way.

Martha Mitchell was a self-taught painter who learned the skill of quilt making from her mother at an early age. She turned from painting to quilting to more fully express her creativity. In addition, she became well known for her finely developed quilting skills. Elaborately quilted designs, using ten stitches to the inch, enhanced the pieced quilt tops. In a tribute to her skills as a folk artist, the Smithsonian Institution asked her to donate one of her quilts to their collection.

Melvin Mason's recorded conversations with Martha Mitchell are brought to life by Weston McCoy's detailed color photographs. If you enjoy reading about quilt makers and looking at their magnificent quilts, you may also want to read *My Quilts and Me: The Diary of an American Quilter* and *Award Winning Quilts and Their Makers*.

Patricia Kell
Baytown, Texas

The American Leadership Tradition: Moral Vision from Washington to Clinton, Marvin Olasky (The Free Press, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY, 10020), 1999. Contents, Biblio., Illus. Index. P. 298. \$25.00. Hardcover.

The American Leadership Tradition examines relevant issues. Do religious views or sexual practices relate to public political decisions? Is one's moral conduct a strictly private matter?

Olasky, a distinguished professor of journalism at the University of Texas, considered the careers of presidents Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Kennedy, and Clinton, plus significant leaders Henry Clay, Booker Washington, and John Rockefeller. Other prominent personalities were mentioned, and a more detailed analysis of William Jennings Bryan would have improved the book. Olasky correctly noted that Washington set the standards for the American leadership. Was Jackson our nation's most Bible-based nineteenth century president? The author answered yes. Cleveland received a clear picture of morality, but not his rival Benjamin Harrison, a Christian who chose only Christians in his original cabinet.

Moral vision had mixed results. It did not guarantee success for Wilson or Carter. Yet, Franklin Roosevelt's confidence, partly resulting from the "theology of a toothless God" (p.231), benefited America. With potential to be a great president, Kennedy's morality restricted his achievements. A successful economy and the lowering of leadership standards contributed to public acceptance of Clinton's presidency.

The American Leadership Tradition reminds us that we live in glass houses. Private life forms the basis for public life; these interrelate rather than have separate existences. If we earnestly seek the truth about human actions done in the past, morality is significant. By emphasizing morality's importance with prudence and high professional history standards, Olasky contributes significantly to future historical writing. Within the scope of legitimate differences, discussion about religious beliefs and sexual immorality in explaining why people act may be this book's greatest significance. Although a difficult challenge, our history will improve. Olasky invites us to reconsider historian and American leader Theodore Roosevelt's advice that "the greatest historian should also be a good moralist" (p. xix). Stimulating, interesting reading, *The American Leadership Tradition* is a major contribution to United States history.

Irvin M. May Jr.
Blinn College- Bryan

Letters to Lithopolis: From O. Henry to Mabel Wagnalls, William Sidney Porter (Eakin Press, P. O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1999. 1922. P.63 \$14.95. Paperback.

The Friends of the O. Henry Museum in Austin, Texas, issued the second edition of *Letters to Lithopolis* on the occasion of naming The O. Henry House and Museum as the first Texas Literary Landmark. Mabel Wagnalls wrote to O. Henry after she had read his story, "Roads to Destiny." She was fascinated that anyone would sign a work simply "O. Henry" and was intent on learning more about him. *Letters* contains the correspondence from O. Henry in New York City to Miss Wagnalls, who was visiting in her grandmother's hometown of Lithopolis, Ohio, a village of 350 people. O. Henry's letters indicate his curiosity about the village and Miss Wagnall's acquaintances there, but they also reveal colorful descriptions of O. Henry's past life in Texas. He had moved from North Carolina to Texas while he was a young man. He worked on a ranch, later moved to Houston where he worked for a newspaper, and then bought a newspaper in Austin; he did most of the writing and illustrations himself. *Letters* contains sketches of Lithopolis as O. Henry imagined it.

In his correspondence, O. Henry comments about literature and writing: "I have much more respect for a man who brands cattle than for one who writes pieces for the printer" (p. 3), and "There ought to be a law reserving literature for one-legged veterans and women with nine children to write. Men ought to have the hard work to do—they ought to read the stuff" (p. 8).

This little volume is a collectable, limited edition that should be included in any O. Henry enthusiast's library.

Sarah Jackson
Stephen F. Austin State University

Storyville, USA, Dale Peterson (University of Georgia Press, 330 Research Dr., Athens, GA 30602-4901) 1999. Contents. Map. Acknowledgments. P. 299. \$25.95. Hardcover.

Relating adventures in breezy, pun-filled strokes, Dale Peterson takes a whimsical American odyssey to fifty-eight destinations—three in East Texas. He defines a Storyville as "a place whose name you find on a map...and you say to yourself: Now what is the story behind that name?"

Starting point for these onomastic wanderings was, appropriately, Start, Louisiana. No time was wasted in reaching East Texas for stops in Uncertain, Cut and Shoot, and Humble.

Peterson never seeks documented origins. Instead, he is an imaginative investigator of landscapes and lifestyles, asking the first stranger in a Storyville about the name. He learns that a town clerk completing a form

before anyone was sure of the name wrote, "Uncertain." He lingered there long enough to capture the aura of Caddo Lake, but he missed the four accounts of the name typically reported by historians. In Cut and Shoot, the town marshal spun the standard tale of a church squabble with knives and guns. Peterson "fumbled right past Humble." Denied a chance to explore the name, Peterson headed for West Texas and Noodle, lamenting, "And so, with the highways crissing and crossing and me fussing and cussing, our little expedition rumbled from Humble to proud to terrifying, and old Highway 59 became like a python swallowing a very big pig."

With four Storyvilles, Texas leads other states in the lower forty-eight. Although five Alaska Storyvilles appear, the final one, Roads End, was transferred there from California and used as the northernmost point in this affectionate tribute to America.

Fred Tarpley
Hawkins, Texas